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Murdered Contractor's Widow Sues Twitter For Enabling ISIS

By **Y. Peter Kang**

Law360, Los Angeles (January 13, 2016, 8:52 PM ET) -- The widow of an American defense contractor recently killed in a mass shooting in Jordan filed a suit in California federal court Wednesday accusing Twitter Inc. of supporting terrorism by knowingly allowing terrorist group ISIS to further its cause by communicating through the social media service.

Tamara Fields filed the suit on behalf of her late husband Lloyd "Carl" Fields Jr., who was working as a DynCorp International government contractor last November when he, along with another American contractor and three others, were shot and killed by a Jordanian police captain named Anwar Abu Zaid. Fields claims that Abu Zaid, who was later killed by a fellow Jordanian officer, was motivated in the killings by ISIS, which took credit for the attack, according to the complaint.

"For years, Twitter has knowingly permitted the terrorist group ISIS to use its social network as a tool for spreading extremist propaganda, raising funds and attracting new recruits," the 17-page complaint states. "Without Twitter, the explosive growth of ISIS over the last few years into the most-feared terrorist group in the world would not have been possible."

Fields claims that ISIS has 70,000 Twitter accounts, including 79 official accounts, through which it disseminates its calls to arms and solicits funds.

The complaint, which relies heavily on media accounts of ISIS using the social media service, alleges that Twitter knowingly permits ISIS to use it, has not properly responded to U.S. government requests that it block terrorist groups from the site and has refused to take any meaningful action.

The suit seeks to hold Twitter liable for civil damages under federal law prohibiting the material support of terrorists or terrorist groups.

"The services and support that defendant purposefully, knowingly or with willful blindness provided to ISIS constitute material support to the preparation and carrying out of acts of international terrorism, including the attack in which Lloyd Fields, Jr. was killed," according to the complaint.

Fields seeks unspecified damages as compensation for her "severe mental anguish," pain and suffering and loss of companionship due to her husband's death.

Representatives for the parties did not immediately respond to requests for comment Wednesday.

Fields is represented by L. Timothy Fisher, Julia A. Luster and Scott A. Bursor of Bursor &

Fisher PA.

Counsel information for Twitter was not immediately available.

The case is *Fields v. Twitter Inc.*, case number 4:16-cv-00213, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

— Editing by Ben Guilfoy.

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